



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : B23P 11/00, B21D 51/22, A47J 36/02, 27/00, F16B 11/00</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/66316 (43) International Publication Date: 9 November 2000 (09.11.00)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/03930 (22) International Filing Date: 2 May 2000 (02.05.00) (30) Priority Data: 99830267.3 4 May 1999 (04.05.99) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SOCIETA' ITALIANA PENTOLE - S.I.P. S.p.A. [IT/IT]; Viale Gramsci, 17/B, I-80122 Napoli (IT). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SOLLO, Giovanni [IT/IT]; Società Italiana Pentole - S.I.P. S.p.A., Viale Gramsci, 17/B, I-80122 Napoli (IT). (74) Agents: LEONE, Mario et al.; Società Italiana Brevetti S.p.A., Piazza di Pietra, 39, I-00186 Roma (IT).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</p>
<p>(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF COOKING VESSELS AND VESSELS OBTAINED ACCORDING TO SUCH PROCESS</p>		
<p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A process for the manufacture of cooking vessels, in particular pots and/or pans in a relatively soft metallic material, with a plate in a metallic material of high hardness applied to the bottom of the vessel, performs a stable connection among said parts with no mechanical and/or thermal trauma for the materials and comprises the steps of: providing a plate (1) provided with a plurality of points (6) projecting from a surface (4) thereof; inducing, by compression, the penetration of said points (6) and the adhering of said surface (4) at the bottom (20); and stretching said bottom (20), thereby causing the deformation and the clutching of said points (6).</p> <div data-bbox="876 1176 1347 1932"> </div>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece		Republic of Macedonia	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon		Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakistan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF COOKING VESSELS AND VESSEL OBTAINED
ACCORDING TO SUCH PROCESS

Description

The present invention relates to a process for the
5 manufacture of cooking vessels, in particular pots and/or
pans and the like provided with a bottom reinforced with
a plate member made of a hard material associated
thereto, and also a vessel as above defined, obtained
according to such process.

10 In particular, said process refers to cooking vessels
shaped starting from a relatively soft metallic flat
member, e.g. made of aluminium, and comprising a bottom
portion reinforced with said plate member which is formed
in a metallic material of relatively high hardness, e.g.,
15 steel-based, possibly having properties making it
heatable with a magnetically induced current.

The processes and the related vessels of the above
specified type are known in the art. For instance, the
French Patent Application No. 91/03695 and the European
20 Patent No. 0,604,617, in the name of SEB S.A., describe a
step in which the plate member and the flat member are
reciprocally connected with a hot press-stamping.

In this step, the soft material of the flat member is
heated and softened. Then, the plate member, that is
25 provided with holes and/or fissures, is press-stamped,
e.g. with a hammer or the like, in such a way that the
steel plate member is embedded into the aluminium flat
member while the latter, due to the induced pressure,
penetrates inside said holes.

30 Such process is disadvantageous due to several reasons,

among which the necessity of a step of heating the aluminium, with the entailed consumption of energy and time, and the need to protect the aluminium itself from oxidation processes.

5 In the European Patent No 0.509.860, a method is described for embedding a holed steel plate in an aluminium layer apt to be manufactured in order to obtain a cooking vessel. According to such method, the embedding is carried out with an energetic step of cold press-
10 stamping, in which the malleability of the aluminium is exploited that is forced to penetrate inside the holes and the fissures of the plate.

Such step, preceding the drawing of the aluminium layer, is a remarkable trauma for the materials and requires the
15 use of high pressures for the cold press-stamping.

In the Swiss Patent No. 227,769 a further method is described for coupling, wherein a spiral-shaped reinforcing member is irreversibly forced inside a
20 groove, of similar shape, formed on a face of the flat member in a soft material.

This method, besides entailing an additional step of hot- or cold forming of said groove, does not allow an application of a real plate member.

In the Italian Patent Application No. RM91A000355 a
25 further method is described, according to which a metallic plate of ferritic steel is fixed to the bottom of a pot by forcing and crimping the edge of the plate inside a peripheral groove surrounding the bottom of the pot already shaped.

30 This method, although performing an effective coupling

without overly traumatising the material, does not provide a suitable reinforcement.

The technical problem underlying the present invention is that of providing a process for the manufacture of
5 cooking vessels allowing to overcome the drawbacks mentioned with reference to the prior art.

Such problem is solved by a process as above specified, characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- * providing a plate member in a metallic material of
10 relatively high hardness, provided with a plurality of points projecting from a surface thereof;
- * inducing, by compression of the plate member onto the flat member, the penetration of said points in the thickness of the flat member and the adhering of said
15 surface of said plate member on a portion of the flat member at the bottom of the cooking vessel; and
- * stretching said flat member at least at said portion, causing the deformation and the clutching of said points inside said thickness.

20 The present invention further relates to a cooking vessel obtained according to the process as above defined, further comprising application steps of one or more non-stick layers, as well as finishing steps of the vessel.

The main advantage of the process for the manufacture
25 according to the present invention lies in allowing an effective securing of the plate member without traumatising the materials and with no further specific steps required.

In fact, the manufacture of the cooking vessels can
30 follow a normal manufacture process, comprising press-

stamping and coining steps needed to securing the plate member, while the latter step can be carried out in parallel, yet in a substantially autonomous way.

Moreover, with the above described process it is possible
5 to secure a plate member regardless of the latter extension with respect to those of the bottom portion at issue.

The present invention will be hereinafter disclosed according to a preferred embodiment thereof, given by way
10 of example and not for limitative purposes. Reference will be made to the annexed drawings, wherein:

- * figures 1 to 3 show perspective views of different plate members that can be used in the process for the manufacture according to the present invention; and
- 15 * figures 4 to 7 schematically show some steps of the process for the manufacture according to the present invention; and
- * figure 8 shows a first semimanufactured vessel of an intermediate step of the process of the preceding
20 figures;
- * figure 9 shows an enlarged section of a detail of said first semimanufactured vessel;
- * figure 10 shows a second semimanufactured vessel of an intermediate step of the process of the preceding
25 figures;
- * figure 11 shows an enlarged section of a detail of said second semimanufactured vessel;
- * figure 12 shows a perspective and exploded view of a finished vessel obtained with said process; and

* figure 13 shows a perspective view of the finished vessel of figure 12.

The process according to the present embodiment relates to the shaping of a pot or of a pan, provided with a reinforced bottom and non-stick surfaces.

With reference to figures 1 to 3, three embodiments of a plate member, that hereinafter is generally indicated with 1, in figures 4 to 11 are shown, apt to be used in the process disclosed here. Hereinafter, the same numerical references indicate parts performing a similar function in the various embodiments.

The plate members 1 of figures 1 to 3 are in a metallic material of a relatively high hardness, being apt to be applied in the field of the cooking vessels, like pots or pans, manufactured in a relatively soft metallic material and starting from a flat member, indicated with 2 in the next figures, manufactured just in said relatively soft metallic material.

With reference to said materials, said relatively soft metallic material is exemplified without limitative purposes by the aluminium, that is conventionally used in the manufacture of said vessels, or by an alloy substantially based on said metal. The relatively soft metallic material used in the embodiments of the process disclosed hereinafter is aluminium.

Concerning instead the metallic material of a relatively high hardness, it has to have a hardness such as to be capable of deforming said relatively soft metallic material.

An example of a metallic material of relatively high

hardness apt to be used in the process according to the invention is stainless steel, that, not requiring coatings, is capable to resist to the typical corrosion phenomena to which the cooking vessels are subjected in
5 their working life.

In particular, in order to obtain a cooking vessel apt to be heated with magnetic induction, a metallic material of relatively high hardness provided with adequate magnetic properties is preferred. Advantageously, a type of
10 metallic material of relatively high hardness that is used in the embodiments disclosed hereinafter is ferritic stainless steel, shortly called ferritic steel.

By way of further example, ferritic steels suitable to these objects are steels having a carbon content
15 preferably lower than 0.15% and a chromium content higher than 15%, as AISI 405, AISI 430, AISI 434.

The plate member 1 is substantially disc-shaped and comprises a circular edge 3, a first surface 4 apt to be adhered to said flat member 2, and a second surface 5,
20 apt to be exposed to the outside.

Said plate member 1 is provided with a plurality of points 6 integrally formed with the plate member 1 and projecting, in a substantially vertical way, from said first surface 4.

25 Generally, the points 4 are annularly placed at the edge 3 and in case are also formed starting from the solid metallic layer of the plate member 1.

In the first case, the points 6 are performed e.g., by shearing and bending, preferably with a continuous and
30 uninterrupted distribution on said edge 3.

In the second case, the points 6 are formed by punching, carried out using a punch having a drift-pin and flat side faces jointed by sharp edges. Thus, the drift-pin of the punch penetrates into the metallic layer while the sharp edges cut the edges of the points and the faces bend upright the points thus formed.

The number of points 6 formed by each drift-pin depends on the number of side faces of the drift-pin. To each drift-pin further corresponds a hole 7, at which points 6 are formed in said number.

Advantageously, a squared-section drift-pin performs four points 6 per each hole 7, each point 6 having an apex with a spread of approximately 90° .

In any case, each point 6 has an apex with a spread-angle comprised in the range 75° - 105° , in order to ensure an effective penetration capability and a section offering a suitable resistance to the axial stress.

With reference to figure 1, a first plate member 1a comprises an circle of points 6 projecting from the edge 3 and a plurality of holes 7, each having respective points 6, grouped together in a central portion 8 of the plate member 1a. Said first plate member 1a comprises a full circle 9 delimited by the edge 3 and contouring the holes 7 and the respective points 6.

With reference to figure 2, a second plate member 1b is annularly formed having a central circle-shaped opening 10.

The second plate member 1b comprises an circle of points 6 projecting from the edge 3, and a plurality of holes 7, each having respective points 6, evenly spaced along an

intermediate circle between the edge 3 and the opening 10.

With reference to figure 3, a third plate member 1c is formed in a full-disc shape and comprises a circle of points 6, projecting from the edge 3, and a full portion of the body of the disc.

With reference to figures 4 to 11, hereinafter the process for the manufacture according to the invention will be disclosed.

10 The process comprises an initial step in the manufacture sequence, consisting in providing of said flat member 2 of a metallic material. In the present preferred embodiment, said flat member is a disc of predetermined thickness, apt to be transformed through the subsequent steps in a cylindrical cooking vessel having a circular section.

Obviously, starting from a member of a different shape, a vessel having a different shape can be obtained, e.g. one having an ellipsoidal section starting from an ellipsoid or a prismatic saucepan starting from a substantially quadrilateral member.

Said aluminium disk, that forms the flat member 2 in the following and is likewise indicated with 2 in the figures, undergoes a first step of superficial polishing treatment, with the removal of a possible oxidised layer.

Such surface treatment can be carried out with any superficial removal method such as pickling, grinding, pumicing, sandblasting and the like.

The preferred treatment is pickling, since, as it can be observed with a microscope, the aluminium surface

finishing after the pickling has a plurality of pores comprising surface opening having a narrowed section and a widened hole.

Such pore structure is particularly suitable to receive a
5 coating layer, e.g. of polymeric type.

On the disc 1, a first surface 11 is evidenced, apt to form the outer surface of the vessel that is being manufactured, and a second surface 12, apt to form the inner surface of the vessel that is being manufactured.

10 The process according to the invention comprises a first step of depositing one or more outer coating layers 13 on said first surface 11.

The application of the outer coating layer 13 can be carried out according to one of the known methods: with a
15 spray or a roller, or also through a silk-screen printing stencil, passing a sleeker to form specific patterns on the first surface.

In a preferred embodiment of the present process, the application of the outer coating layer 13 takes place by
20 means of a roller, indicated with 14 in figure 4, exerting a predetermined application pressure on the first surface 11.

Such application method allows the forming of one or more outer coating layers 13 having a predetermined and
25 controlled thickness, with the penetration of the innermost layer in said pores of the aluminium.

In a preferred embodiment of the present process, the outer coating layer 13 consists of non-stick polymeric substances, possibly mixed with pigments conferring to
30 said first surface a particular colouring.

The preferred polymeric substance is a PTFE, in a dry weight percentage comprised between 30 and 75%.

The total applied thickness of the outer layer or layers 13 is comprised in the range 5-50 μm , preferably in the
5 range 20-40 μm .

The outer layer or layers 13 applied to the disc 1 are then fixed by heating, entailing a polymerisation of the basic material and a stabilisation of the pigment.

Preferably, such heating is carried out by baking, at a
10 temperature conveniently higher than 380°C in order to obtain an adequate polymerisation, and lower than 480°C.

The preferred baking temperature interval range is 390-450°C.

In any case, the heating time is limited to a few
15 minutes, and is anyhow shorter than 10 minutes.

The process for the manufacture according to the present invention comprises a step wherein a plate member 1 is provided as aforescribed with reference to figures 1 to 3.

20 After the first step of depositing, the process according to the present embodiment comprises a step wherein the penetration of said points into the thickness of the flat member, i.e., of the aluminium disc 1, is induced by compression.

25 Said compression step, can take place e.g., by press-stamping (figure 5) of the plate member 1 on said first surface 11 of the disc 2.

After the compression, the adhering of said first surface 4 of the plate member 1 on the said first surface 11 is

also induced, in particular on a portion of the disc 2 at the bottom of the cooking vessel that is being manufactured and that is generally indicated with 20.

To this end, the diameter of the plate member 1 is
5 smaller or almost equal to that of said bottom portion 20.

To avoid a deformation and a loss of planarity of the disc 2, due to the internal stresses induced by the press-stamping strain and the penetration of the points
10 6, said compression can take place concurrently to the action of a pressure bar member.

For instance, such pressure bar member can comprise an annular pressure plate contouring the periphery of the coining member, indicated with 15 in figure 5. Such plate
15 is connected to the coining member 15 by elastic members, e.g. helical springs, that are apt to be compressed according to a run equal to the coining depth, thereby partially absorbing the pressure exerted thereon.

Advantageously, the action of the pressure bar member
20 entails the exertion of a pressure lower than 50% of the overall pressure exerted by the coining member 15, preferably equal to about 20%.

Thus, the pressure of the pressure bar member is exerted on a region annularly contouring said bottom portion 20.

25 The press-stamping, performed on an even surface plate and in particular with the action of the pressure bar member, is a limited trauma for the disc 2.

The points 6 penetrate for the entire height thereof inside the thickness of the disc 2. The penetration,
30 having been induced by compression, takes place in a

substantially vertical way (figures 8 and 9).

By virtue of the intimate connection between the disc 2 in a relatively soft material, and the plate member 1 in a harder material, a global reinforcement of the portion
5 involved in the application of the plate member 1 is obtained.

Moreover, the penetration of a plurality of points 6 close among them, causes a localised work hardening of the softer material of the disc 2, which entails a
10 stiffening of the disc 2 itself.

At this stage of the manufacturing process, although the penetration of the points 6 allows a stable connection, the latter is not optimal for the uses to which the cooking vessels can be destined.

15 At the end of the above described press-stamping, the process according to the invention comprises a second step of depositing one or more inner coating layers 16 on said second surface 12 (figure 6).

The application of the inner layer 16 can be carried out
20 according to one of the known methods: with a spray or a roller, or also through a silk-screen printing stencil, passing a sleeker to form specific patterns on the second surface 12.

According to a preferred but not exclusive method of the
25 present embodiment, the inner layer 16 consists of a plurality of sublayers deposited in sequence with a roller application, indicated with 17 in figure 6.

In this case as well, such application method allows the forming of one or more outer coating layers 16 having a
30 predetermined and controlled thickness, with the

penetration of the innermost layer in said pores of the aluminium.

In a preferred embodiment of the present process, the inner coating layer 16 consists of non-stick polymeric materials.

The preferred polymeric material is a PTFE, in a dry weight percentage generally comprised in the range 30-75%, preferably in the range 40-60%.

The total applied thickness of the inner layer or layers 10 is comprised in the range 5-50 μm , preferably in the range 20-40 μm .

In any case, the inner layer 16 thus applied is capable of hiding, i.e. to make invisible, the impressions possibly left on said second surface 12 in the previous step of coining.

The inner layer or layers 16 thus applied to the disc 1 are then fixed by heating, entailing a polymerisation of the basic material.

When a smooth inner layer 10 is needed, such heating is performed by baking, at a temperature conveniently higher than 380°C, to obtain a suitable polymerisation, and lower than 480°C.

The preferred baking temperature interval range is 420-450°C.

In any case, the heating time is not longer than a few minutes and anyhow shorter than 10 minutes.

When instead a bottom surface provided with surface unevenness is desirable, such to divert the course and the cutting action of tools unwarily used onto said

bottom surface, as cutlery, knives, beaters and the like, to adhere a second assembly of uneven inner layers to said inner layer 16 the latter has to be heated at a lower temperature, advantageously comprised in the 380-
5 420°C range.

Such heating causes a partial sintering of the non-stick material.

Then, said second assembly of uneven inner layers can be deposited on the fixed outer layer 16, e.g., by silk-
10 screen stencil deposition that gives to said assembly a peculiar configuration, for instance in checkers, honeycomb or further comprising writings and/or ornamental patterns.

Such assembly can extend over a portion of the second
15 surface 12 of the disc 1, preferably at the inner surface of the bottom of the vessel that is being formed.

The thickness of said assembly is comprised in a range from 5 to 50 μm , so as to create unevennesses of equal height. Preferably, the thickness of said assembly is
20 comprised in a range from 20 to 45 μm .

Then, it is necessary for such assembly to be heated at a temperature higher than the heating temperature of the inner layer 10. Such difference is of at least 10°C, preferably of about 20°C.

25 The heating temperature of the assembly of the uneven inner layers is anyhow comprised in a range from 390° to 450°C, preferably in a range from 420° to 440°C.

Even in the case of said outer layer 10 and of said assembly, which are not shown, the baking time is anyhow
30 limited to a few minutes, preferably shorter than 10

minutes.

Such heating causes a complete sintering of the inner layer 16 and of the assembly, entailing a suitable molecular integration therebetween.

- 5 Following said second step of depositing, the process according to the present embodiment comprises a forming step of shaping the disc 2.

In the process according to the present invention, such shaping is carried out with the performing of a step in
10 which said flat member 2 undergoes a stretching, at least at the bottom portion 20 of the cooking vessel that is being manufactured.

Such shaping takes place, in its most general aspect, at the press and in particular takes place by a drawing of
15 substantially normal type, operated using a matrix 18 and a drawing punch 19 that cooperate with the aid of a pressure bar, not shown (figure 7).

Obviously, the drawing punch 19 operates on the second surface 12 of the disc 2 while the matrix 18 is put in
20 contact with the first surface 11.

The drawing entails a radial stretching just at said bottom portion 20, the thickness thereof undergoes a stretching strain.

The drawing is advantageously of a simple type, implying
25 only one pressing, regardless of the shape of the vessel to be produced.

In fact, with the above described process any kind of pot or pan can be manufactured: pans, saucepans and skillets having more or less high lateral walls, cylindrical or
30 ellipsoidal sectioned pots, cake-tins, cup-formed or

inverted frustoconical pots or saucepans, provided they have said bottom portion 20 substantially plane or anyhow convex to avoid bulgings deriving from thermal strain.

On said bottom portion 20 said plate member 1 is applied.

- 5 By virtue of the stretching of the thickness of the bottom portion the deformation of the points 6 inserted in the disc 1 is caused, causing in turn the clutching of the points 6 themselves inside said thickness.

10 Actually, for clutching a bending of the end of each point 6 is to be understood, detaching off the vertical according to which the points 6 were induced to penetrate in said thickness.

Thus, a possible dislocation of the plate member 1 along said vertical direction is finally prevented.

- 15 Further, such clutching makes the connection between the plate member 1 and the disc 2 firmer and it is capable to improve the reinforcing of the bottom portion 20 in comparison with the application processes of the known plate members, without causing to the materials thermal
20 and/or mechanical trauma not substantially already envisaged by the usual manufacturing processes of the cooking vessels.

Once that the semimanufactured vessel has undergone said drawing, the vessel itself can at last be finished with
25 the trimming of the rim of the vessel, possibly in a step concomitant to the turning, the addition of handles M, lids and other possible accessories.

Thus, a cooking vessel R (figure 12, 13) is manufactured, e.g., pan-shaped with only one projecting handle M,
30 having a bottom portion 20 reinforced with a plate member

1.

The plate member 1 has a plurality of points 6, piece formed with said plate member 1 nailed in said bottom portion 20 and bent inside the thickness thereof, performing a substantial clutching of the plate member 1 in said bottom portion 20.

Advantageously, said plate member 1 is placed on the outer surface of the cooking vessel R, in the area destined to be rested on any support.

10 In figure 13 a pan is shown to which a plate member 1b is applied as shown in figure 2.

The vessel obtained with the process according to the invention has remarkable non-stick qualities both inside and outside, with long lasting non-stick layers.

15 Moreover, in the embodiment provided with an uneven inner bottom, an improved effectiveness against the damages deriving from a wrong use of the kitchen utensils is also provided.

To the above described process for the manufacture of cooking vessels with a reinforced bottom, a man skilled in the art, in order to satisfy further and contingent needs, may introduce several further modifications and variants, all of them comprised within the protection scope of the present invention, as defined in the annexed claims.

CLAIMS

1. A process for the manufacture of cooking vessels, in particular pots and/or pans and the like, of the type shaped starting from a flat member (2) in a relatively soft metallic material and comprising a bottom portion (20), characterised in that it comprises the following steps:
- * providing a plate member (1), in a metallic material of relatively high hardness, provided with a plurality of points (6) projecting from a surface thereof (4);
 - * inducing, by compression of the plate member (1) on the flat member (2), the penetration of said points (6) in the thickness of the flat member (2) and the adhering of said surface (4) of said plate member (1) on a portion (20) of the flat member (2) at the bottom of the cooking vessel;
 - * stretching said flat member (2) at least at said bottom portion (20), causing the deformation and the clutching of said points (6) inside said thickness.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein said metallic material of relatively high hardness is a stainless steel.
3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said metallic material of relatively high hardness is apt to be heated by induction.
4. The process according to claim 3, wherein said metallic material of relatively high hardness is a ferritic stainless steel.
5. The process according to claim 4, wherein said

ferritic stainless steel has a carbon content lower than 0.15% and a Chromium content higher than 15%.

6. The process according to claim 1, wherein said points (6) are integrally formed with the plate member
5 (1).

7. The process according to claim 6, wherein said points (6) are formed by shearing and bending at an edge (3) of the plate member (1).

8. The process according to claim 1, wherein said
10 points are performed by punching of the plate member (1), using a punch having a drift-pin and provided with flat side faces jointed by sharp edges at the respective hole (7) formed with said punching.

9. The process according to claim 1, wherein each point
15 (6) has an apex with a spread angle comprised in the range of 75° e 105° .

10. The process according to claim 1, wherein said points (6) project in a substantially vertical way from said surface (4) of the plate member (1).

20 11. The process according to claim 1, wherein said flat member (2) is a disc.

12. The process according to claim 1, wherein said relatively soft metallic material is substantially aluminium-based.

25 13. The process according to claim 1, wherein said step of inducing, by compression of the plate member (1) on the flat member (2), the penetration of said points (6) in the thickness of the flat member (2) and the adhering of said surface (4) of said plate member (1) on a portion
30 (20) of the flat member (2) at the bottom of the cooking

vessel, takes place by press-stamping of the plate member (1) on a surface (11) of the flat member (1).

14 The process according to claim 1, wherein said surface (4) of the plate member (1) is adhered on a first
5 surface (11) of the flat member (2) apt to form the outer surface of the cooking vessel (R).

15. The process according to claim 1, wherein said step of inducing, by compression of the plate member (1) on the flat member (2), the penetration of said points (6)
10 in the thickness of the flat member (2) and the adhering of said surface (4) of said plate member (1) on a portion (20) of flat member (2) at the bottom of the cooking vessel, is preceded by a step of depositing of one or more outer coating layers (13) on a first surface (11) of
15 the surfaces (11, 12) of said flat member (2).

16. The process according to claim 1, wherein said step of inducing, by compression of the plate member (1) on the flat member (2), the penetration of said points (6) in the thickness of the flat member (2) and the adhering
20 of said surface (4) of said plate member (1) on a portion (20) of flat member (2) at the bottom of the cooking vessel, is followed, prior to the subsequent step of stretching, by a step of depositing of one or more inner coating layers (16) on a second surface (12) of the
25 surfaces (11, 12) of said flat member (2).

17. The process according to claims 15 and 16, wherein said flat member (2), prior to the steps of depositing of the coating layers (13, 16), undergoes a step of superficial polishing treatment, with the removal of a
30 possible oxidised layer.

18. The process according to claim 18, wherein said step

of surface treatment is pickling.

19. The process according to claim 15, wherein the application of the outer layer (13) takes place by means of a roller (14), exerting a predetermined application
5 pressure on the first surface (11).

20. The process according to claim 15, wherein the outer coating layer (13) consists of non-stick polymeric substances.

21. The process according to claim 20, wherein said non-
10 stick polymeric substances are mixed with pigments.

22. The process according to claim 20, wherein said polymeric substances comprise PTFE, in a dry weight percentage comprised between 30% and 75%.

23. The process according to claim 15, wherein the total
15 applied thickness of the outer layer (13) is comprised in the range 5-50 μm , preferably in the range 15-40 μm .

24. The process according to claim 20, wherein the outer layer (13) is fixed by heating, preferably carried out by baking, at a temperature higher than 380°C and lower than
20 480°C, preferably in the interval range 390-450°C, for a heating time shorter than 10 minutes.

25. The process according to claim 16, wherein the inner layer (16) consists of a plurality of sublayers deposited in sequence with a roller application, consists of non-
25 stick polymeric substances, and is fixed by heating that is carried out by baking, at a temperature preferably comprised in the 380-420°C range; and on which a second assembly of uneven inner layers having a thickness comprised in a range from 15 μm to 45 μm is deposited,
30 fixed by heating at a temperature higher than the heating

temperature of the inner layer (10) of at least 10°C.

26. The process according to claim 1, wherein the step of stretching said flat member (2) takes place by drawing.

5 27. The cooking vessel (R) manufactured with a process according to one of the preceding claims.

28. The cooking vessel (R) of the type shaped starting from a relatively soft metallic material and having a bottom portion (20) reinforced by at least one plate member (1) in a metallic material of relatively high hardness, characterised in that said at least one plate member (1) has a plurality of points (6) nailed in said bottom portion (20) and bent inside the thickness thereof, thereby performing a substantial clutching of
10 the at least one plate member (1) on said bottom portion (20).
15

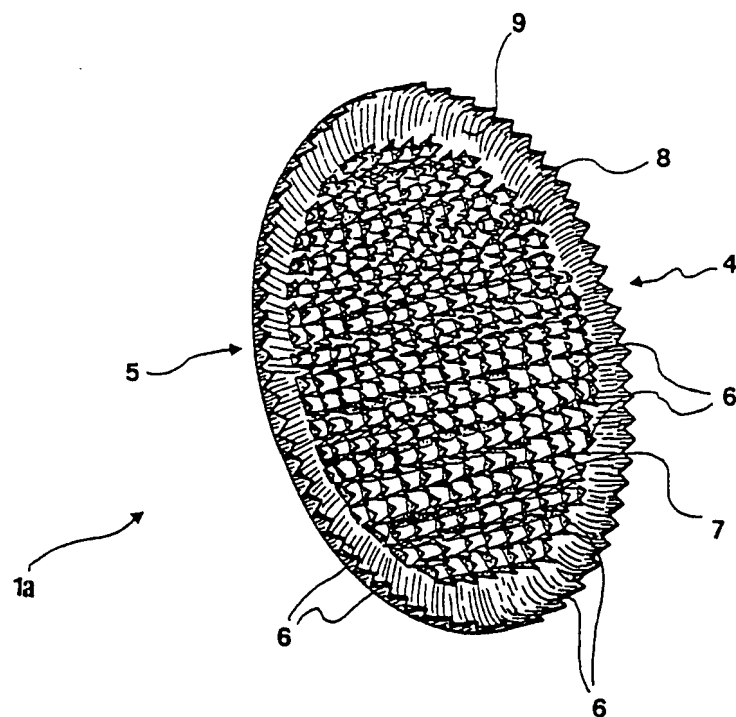


Fig.1

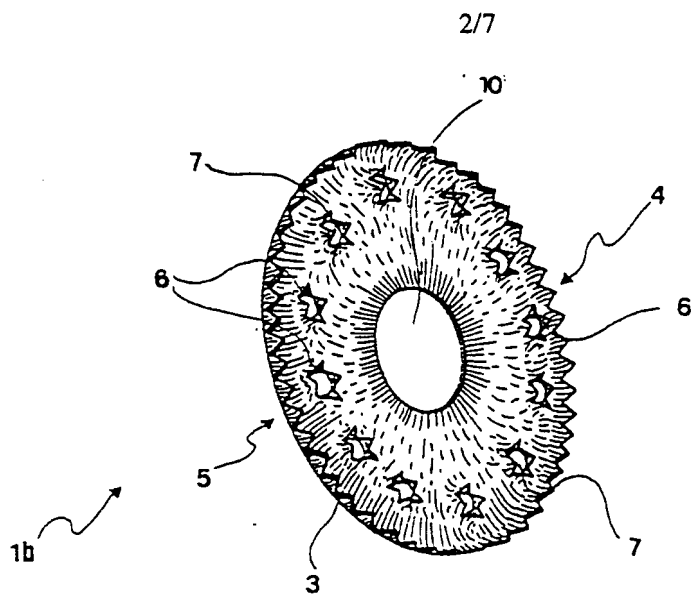


Fig.2

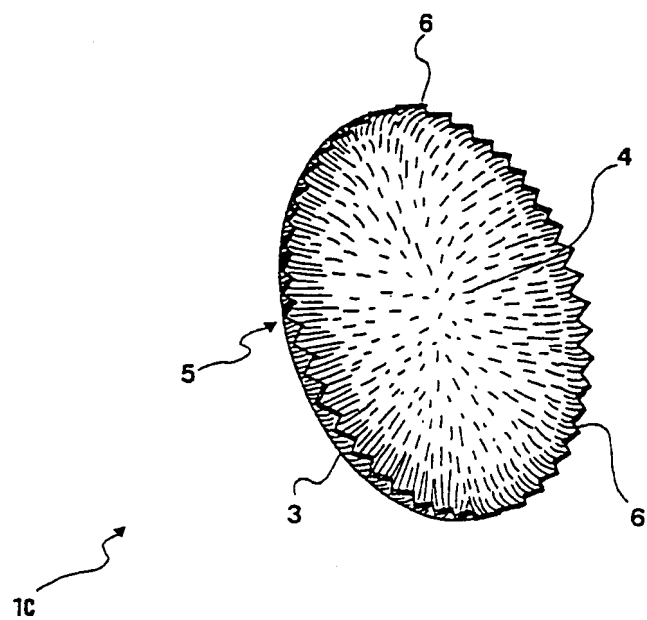


Fig.3

3/7

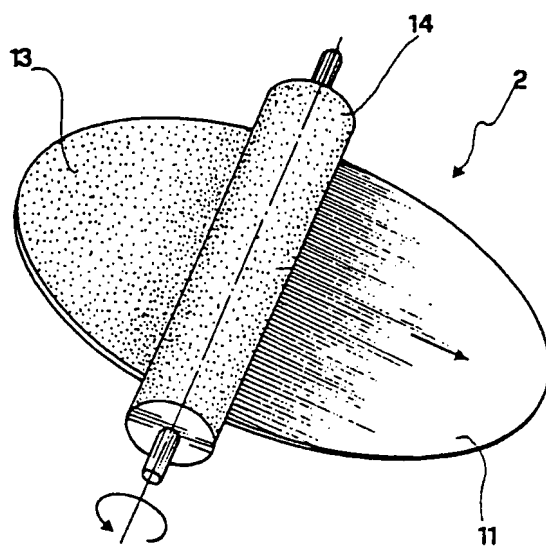


Fig.4

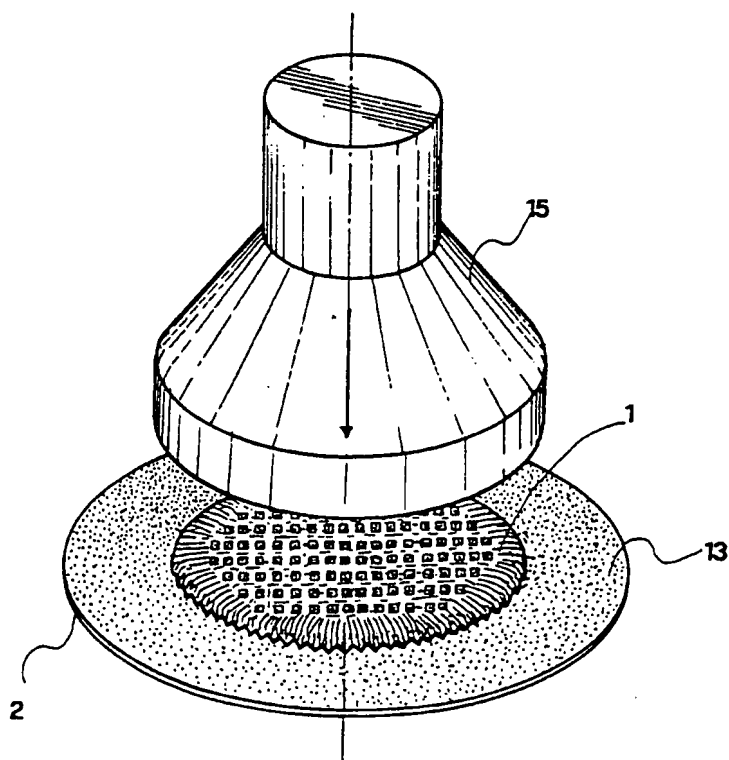


Fig.5

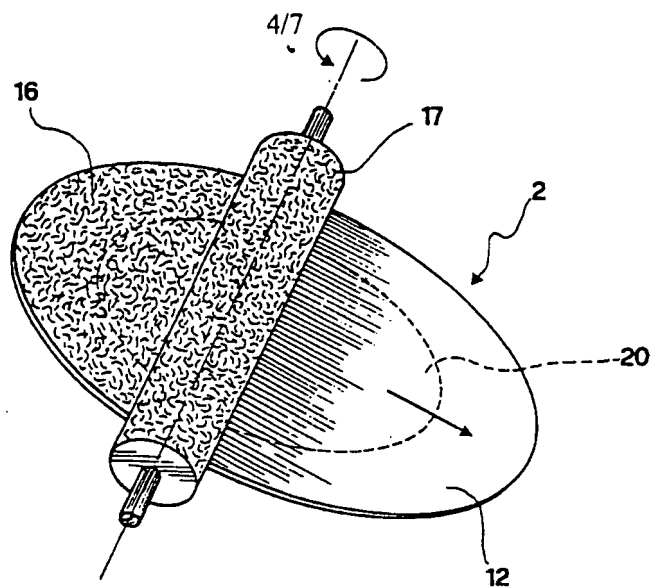


Fig. 6

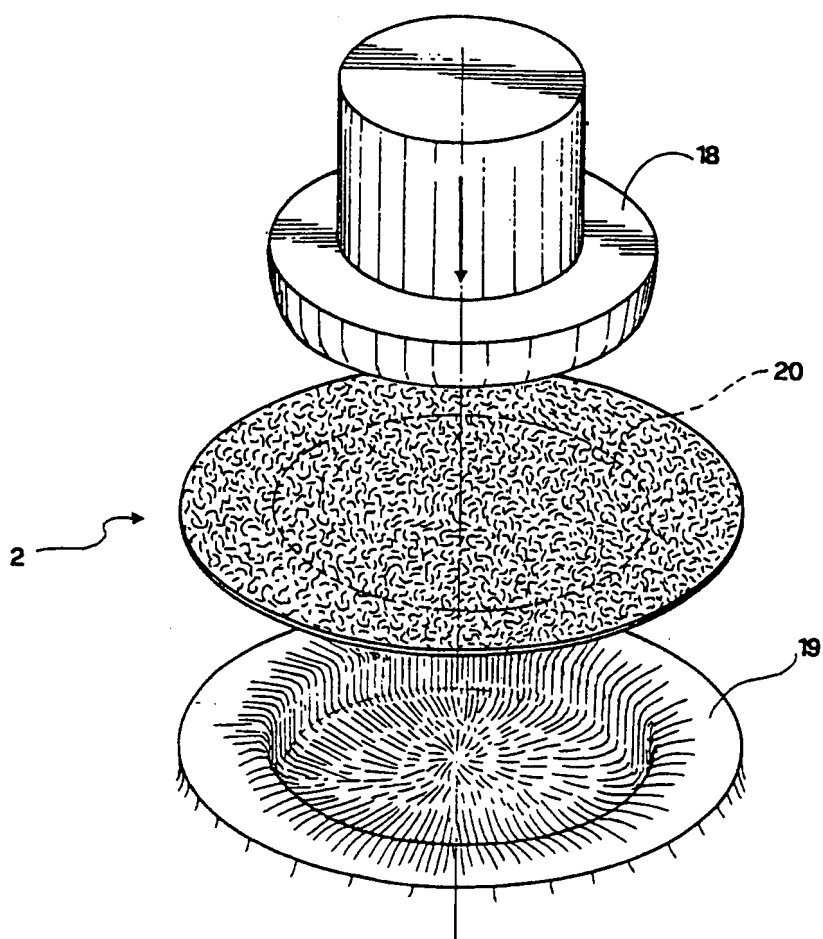


Fig. 7

5/7

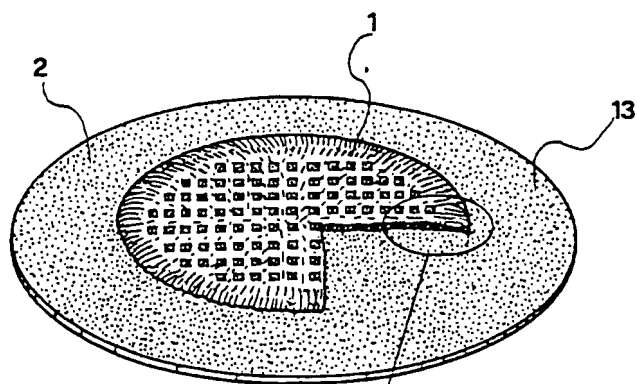


Fig.8

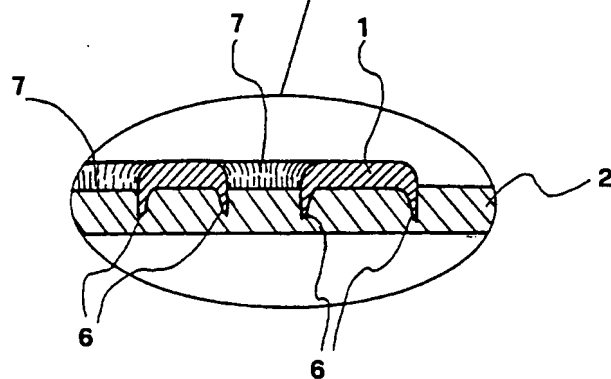


Fig.9

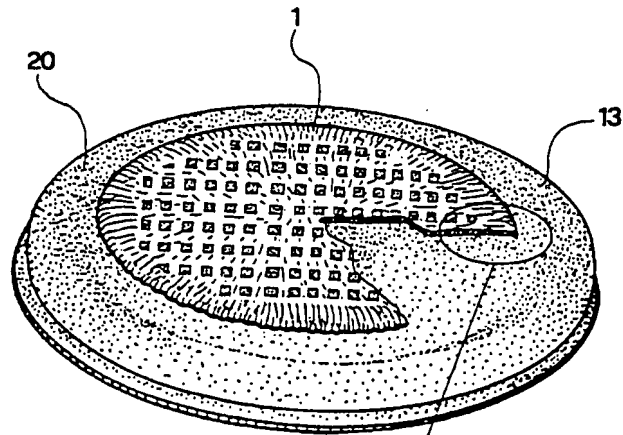


Fig.10

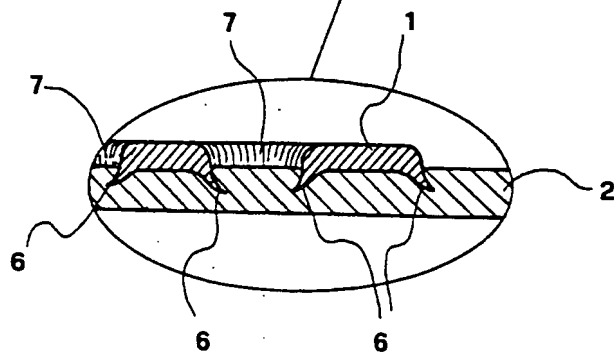


Fig.11

7/7

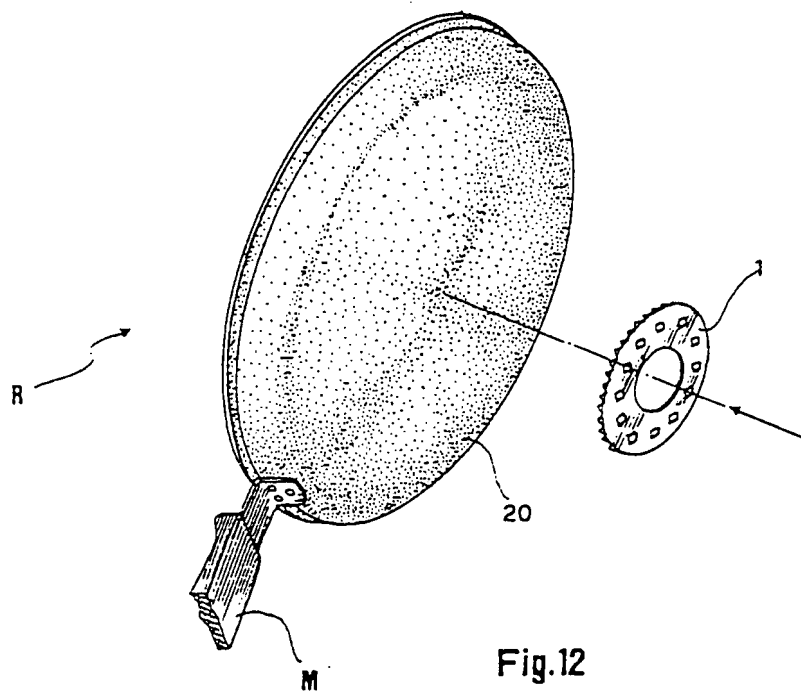


Fig.12

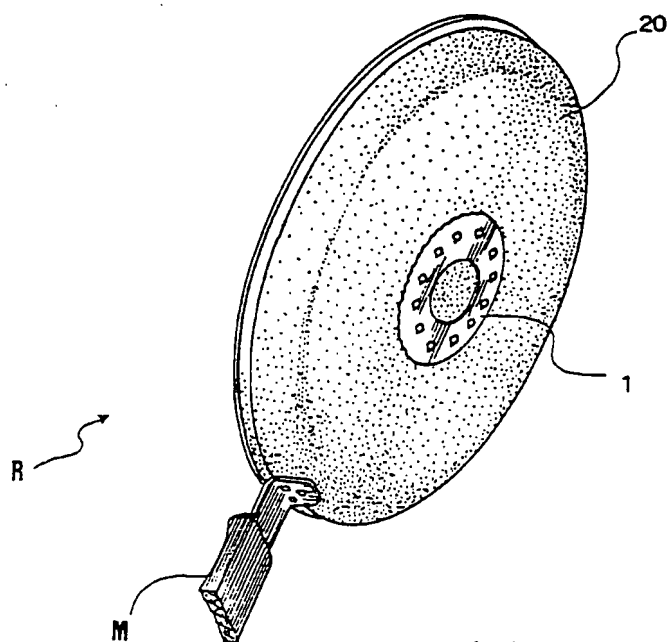


Fig.13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No

PCT/EP 00/03930

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B23P11/00 B21D51/22 A47J36/02 A47J27/00 F16B11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B23P B21D A47J B21K F16B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 509 860 B (SEB SA) 21 October 1992 (1992-10-21) cited in the application column 10 -column 11; claims; figures	1-5, 11-15, 20,26-28
A	US 4 723 783 A (BELTER JEROME G ET AL) 9 February 1988 (1988-02-09) column 3, line 39 -column 4, line 15; figures 2-4	1
A	GB 1 515 951 A (ELPAG AG CHUR) 28 June 1978 (1978-06-28) page 3, line 61 -page 4, line 8; figures 1-6	1,6,8, 27,28
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

A document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/08/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentleer 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Plastiras, D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/03930

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 668 040 A (SEB SA) 23 August 1995 (1995-08-23) column 2, line 9 -column 3, line 16; claims 5,11; figures _____	1-4, 11-14, 26-28
A	FR 2 741 553 A (SEB SA) 30 May 1997 (1997-05-30) page 5, line 1 - line 27; figures page 6, line 3 -page 7, line 13 claims 1-5,9; figures _____	1-4, 11-16, 19-28
A	GB 505 955 A (J. SANKEY & SONS LTD) 19 May 1939 (1939-05-19) claims 1,2; figures 1-3 _____	1,6,7,9, 10,27,28

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/03930

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0509860 B	21-10-1992	FR 2674463 A	02-10-1992
		FR 2679472 A	29-01-1993
		FR 2686035 A	16-07-1993
		AT 138833 T	15-06-1996
		CA 2064136 A,C	28-09-1992
		DE 69211216 D	11-07-1996
		DE 69211216 T	07-11-1996
		DE 509860 T	09-06-1993
		DK 509860 T	24-06-1996
		EP 0509860 A	21-10-1992
		ES 2036998 T	01-08-1996
		GR 93300028 T	24-05-1993
		GR 3020687 T	31-10-1996
		JP 2642828 B	20-08-1997
		JP 5091950 A	16-04-1993
		MX 9201320 A	01-10-1992
		RU 2060164 C	20-05-1996
		US 5506062 A	09-04-1996
		US 5694674 A	09-12-1997
US 4723783 A	09-02-1988	BR 8702537 A	23-02-1988
		CA 1291183 A	22-10-1991
		DE 3715858 A	10-12-1987
		JP 63057967 A	12-03-1988
		MX 165420 B	11-11-1992
GB 1515951 A	28-06-1978	DE 2508161 A	09-09-1976
		DE 2530296 A	20-01-1977
		AT 353080 B	25-10-1979
		AT 134376 A	15-03-1979
		FR 2302174 A	24-09-1976
		IT 1059953 B	21-06-1982
		SE 423194 B	26-04-1982
		SE 7602304 A	26-08-1976
EP 0668040 A	23-08-1995	SE 7903406 A	18-04-1979
		FR 2716101 A	18-08-1995
		DE 69505569 D	03-12-1998
		DE 69505569 T	18-03-1999
		DE 668040 T	29-02-1996
		ES 2078206 T	16-12-1995
		JP 7284450 A	31-10-1995
FR 2741553 A	30-05-1997	US 5809630 A	22-09-1998
		NONE	
GB 505955 A		NONE	

IDS REFERENCES



FOR